

What is claimed is:

1. A determining method comprising the steps of:
 - receiving image data which is obtained by means of reading an original document by an image sensor;
 - 5 extracting an edge portion using the received image data;
 - obtaining brightness information, saturation information and hue information with respect to the edge portion; and
 - determining whether or not the edge portion is black edge based on the brightness information, saturation information and hue
- 10 information.
2. A determining method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the image data has R, G, and B data.
- 15 3. An image processing apparatus comprising:
 - a receiver which receives image data which is obtained by means of reading an original document by an image sensor;
 - an extracting portion which extracts an edge portion using the received image data;
 - 20 an obtaining portion which obtains brightness information, saturation information and hue information with respect to the edge portion;
 - a first determining portion which determines whether or not the edge portion is black edge based on the brightness information
 - 25 and saturation information;

a second determining portion which determines whether or not the edge portion is a pseudo-black edge based on the hue information; and

5 a third determining portion which determines that the edge portion is a black edge when the edge is determined as a black edge by the first determining portion and not as a pseudo-black edge by the second determining portion.

10 4. An image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein said second determining portion compares a threshold value obtained based on the brightness information with the hue information, and determines whether or not the edge portion is a pseudo-black edge based on a result of the comparison.

15 5. An image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 3, further comprising:

an image processing portion which applies a predetermined process to the black edge determined by the third determining portion.

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6. An image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the image data has R, G, and B data.

7. An image forming apparatus comprising:

25 an image sensor which reads a original document;

an extracting unit which extracts an edge portion using the image data from the image sensor;

an obtaining unit which obtains brightness information, saturation information and hue information with respect to the edge
5 portion;

a first determining unit which determines whether or not the edge portion is black edge based on the brightness information and saturation information;

10 a second determining unit which determines whether or not the edge portion is a pseudo-black edge based on the hue information; and

15 a third determining unit which determines that the edge portion is a black edge when the edge is determined as a black edge by the first determining unit and not as a pseudo-black edge by the second determining unit.

8. An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the image data has R, G, and B data.